

**Porter County Council
Budget Meeting – Second Reading
September 25, 2019**

The Porter County Council met on Wednesday, September 25, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Administration Center, 155 Indiana-Suite 205, Valparaiso, Indiana.

Dan Whitten called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present were Councilmembers Dan Whitten, Sylvia Graham, Mike Jessen, Bob Poparad, Greg Simms. Jeff Larson and Jeremy Rivas arrived late. Also present were Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing and Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely.

Second Reading – 2020 Budget Hearing

**West Porter Twp Fire General
West Porter Twp Fire Cumulative**

Discussion: Dave Hollenbeck addressed the Council. Also present was Chuck Murray, Chairman of the Governing Board. This Territory covers Lakes of the Four Seasons. This budget is proposed at a 3.5% growth factor.

Motion: Sylvia Graham moved to approve. Mike Jessen seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Highway LRS 1169

Motion: Sylvia Graham moved to approve as proposed. Bob Poparad seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Highway Fund 1176

Motion: Mike Jessen moved to approve as proposed. Jeff Larson seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Highway Overweight Vehicles 4202

Motion: Jeff Larson moved to approve as proposed. Sylvia Graham seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Highway LR&B Match Grant 9400

Motion: Jeff Larson moved to approve as proposed. Mike Jessen seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion: There are no Major Moves funds left. The Highway Department is trying to purchase the last piece of equipment for chip and seal.

Storm Water 1182

Motion: Mike Jessen moved to approve as proposed. Jeff Larson seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Unsafe Building 1207

Motion: Bob Poparad moved to approve as proposed. Sylvia Graham seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion: Mike Jessen asked for an update on the activity in this fund. Bob Thompson replied there were six structures at the last hearing before the Hearing Officer. Three are down and the rest are in the process. There are another five structures that will be in front of the Hearing Officer in November. This is funded from the building permits.

Planning Commission 1180

Motion: Jeff Larson moved to approve as proposed. Mike Jessen seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion: This budget went up. The maintenance agreement went up. They are looking at new software. It will integrate building permits with GIS. This is a one-time expense. This will be coming out of building fees.

Drain Maintenance 2700

Motion: Mike Jessen moved to approve as proposed. Bob Poparad seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Discussions: This is the Ditch Fund that they are trying to eliminate which is why it is going down.

Cumulative Bridge 1135

Motion: Jeremy Rivas moved to approve as proposed. Mike Jessen seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion: Sylvia Graham discussed the consulting fee and questioned if they are considering getting a full-time employee. Bob Thompson replied they are requesting an assistant county engineer to help with all three departments. They would like to have the development system brought back in house. There is a considerable amount of money spent on consulting fees. They are looking for a PE with experience in municipal engineering. They are looking at a salary of \$100,000.

Storm Water Construction Fund 4802

Motion: Bob Poparad moved to approve as proposed. Mike Jessen seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

EMA (GF)

Discussion: The budget has gone up some. Porter County's share is \$3,000 that goes in a non-reverting fund along with the other three counties to cover repairs and maintenance. They have a lease-to-own on a fork lift. He also is buying ready to eat meals that have a 20-year shelf life. The Commissioners are aware of the fork lift lease. They anticipate doing a four-year payment. Last year the budget was increased to cover vests. Sylvia Graham asked if that could be dropped out this year. This number will be taken down to \$1,500.00. They are purchasing handouts for speaking events they give. Training and Education has only spent \$275 this year. He did not cut that amount because he hopes to be spending more this year. Training and Education will be dropped to \$2,500. Previously there was little maintenance being done. This figure is higher in this budget to catch up on work that should have been done. The telephone amount will be taken down to \$3,000. Reflecting these changes, \$293,975 is the current budget amount.

Motion: Bob Poparad moved to approve with corrections. Jeff Larson seconded the motion. Motion approved by a 6-1 Vote. Jeremy Rivas voted No.

EMA Hazardous Substance 1221

Motion: Mike Jessen moved to approve as proposed. Jeff Larson seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

EMA – Dist. 1 Task Force Fund 4020

Motion: Bob Poparad moved to approve as proposed. Mike Jessen seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

LEPC 1152

Motion: Jeremy Rivas moved to approve as proposed. Jeff Larson seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Surveyor (GF)

Motion: Bob Poparad moved to approve as proposed. Sylvia Graham seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion: The Perpetuation Fund balance is \$122,358. Kevin Breitzke explained he is purchasing a vehicle which will reduce this fund by \$35,000. Data Processing equipment at \$6,500 is also coming out of this fund. Later in the year he will have part-time salary coming out of the Perpetuation Fund.

Surveyor Perpetuation 1202

Motion: Sylvia Graham moved to approve as proposed. Bob Poparad seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Parks (GF)

Walter Lenckos explained his budget has gone up since last year. He is asking for an hourly increase. This would give him the ability to hire park maintenance staff and then building maintenance and repair is the other increase. He anticipates adding two or three staff to the maintenance staff.

Motion: Jeff Larson moved to approve as proposed. Sylvia Graham seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion: Their schedule has been busy and they have not gotten to a lot of the maintenance issues. That is the reason for the increase. With changes the revised budget amount is \$533,259.

Amended Motion: Jeff Larson moved to amend his motion to the new proposed budget amount of \$533,259. Sylvia Graham agreed with the amendment. Motion approved by a 6-1 vote. Jeremy Rivas voted No.

Parks Operating 1179

Discussion: Bob Poparad questioned that there is \$230,000 for part-time people. He asked if they have ever considered three full time employees. Walter replied it is less cost for the County to have the part-time employees. Currently he has six maintenance guys at 29 hours a week and four on the program side.

Motion: Bob Poparad moved to approve the budget at a revised amount of \$226,584. Jeff Larson seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Recycling & Waste District Management

The Hourly is up this year due to the Portage Compost site.

Motion: Jeff Larson moved to approve as proposed. Bob Poparad seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion: The recycling Board has approved this proposed budget.

Recycling & Waste Capital

Motion: Bob Poparad moved to approve as proposed. Sylvia Graham seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Health 1159

Motion: Sylvia Graham moved to approve reflecting the change made at last night's meeting. Mike Jessen seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Antabuse 2102

Motion: Bob Poparad moved to approve as proposed. Sylvia Graham seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion: Bob Poparad questioned how much is reimbursed in this fund. The person needing this does pay for it.

Local Health Maintenance 1168

Motion: Mike Jessen moved to approve as proposed. Bob Poparad seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Health INLHDTA (Tobacco) 1206

Motion: Jeff Larson moved to approve as proposed. Jeremy Rivas seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion: This is from the tobacco settlement. It has been received since 2001.

Council (GF)

Motion: Sylvia Graham moved to approve as proposed with contractual lowered. Mike Jessen seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

At this time the General Fund is down \$64,000.

**PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA**

Dan Whitten

Sylvia Graham

Mike Jessen

Bob Poparad

Jeff Larson

Jeremy Rivas

Greg Simms

Attest: _____
Vicki Urbanik, Auditor